

November 30, 2019

Stacey Mulroy, Recreation Director
Town of Arlington
422 Summer Street
Arlington, MA 02474

RE: Arlington Parks Playground Assessment and Recommendation Report

Dear Stacey:

I am pleased to provide this assessment and recommendation report for the list of 20 Arlington playgrounds provided by your Department. Also identified in this report are short-term retrofits and surfacing needs with estimated costs for some playgrounds, utilizing the least expensive acceptable and accessible surfacing. All others need a thorough review [to include a funding review] and a future action plan.

If there had been a Standard of Care Program in place for the playgrounds, naturally, impending costs would be less. Most of the playgrounds assessed are in fair to poor [overall] condition. These assessments also encompass surfacing, maintenance of grounds, equipment, and site furnishings. I have categorized the playgrounds and provided recommendations within the report.

There are multiple schools that benefit from the use of play equipment owned by the Parks and Recreation Commission. It will be necessary to review the ownership of equipment adjacent to schools and then plan for standard High Frequency Inspections [done in-house], repair protocol, rehabilitation and /or restoration.

I observed both the Stratton and Florence Dallin Schools during the end of the school day while the transitioning to afterschool use was taking place. The number of children using the playgrounds was staggering.

Playgrounds vary in equitable play value for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds at the sites. For example, Whittemore is age appropriate for 2-5 years, but not 5-12 years; while Cutter is age appropriate for 5-12 years, but not 2-5 years. Playgrounds do not have to provide equipment for both age groups. These are choices the owner makes.

All playground assessments and recommendations were completed by Playground Inspections of NE, LLC and reflect professional judgment. The criteria and format for the data collection and reports were developed based on the specific needs of the Arlington Parks. This report does not represent the format typically used by PINE for a Low Frequency Inspection or Audit, but rather captures the immediate needs of Arlington in assessing priority safety, accessibility and current condition of each playground and surrounding area. The evaluation criteria include but are not limited to ASTM F1487-17, ASTM F2223-10, ASTM F2049-11 (2017), ASTM F1292-13 CPSC Publication 325, General ADA and MAAB requirements. Note that no safety surface testing using a triax instrument was conducted; rather surfacing evaluation was based on a visual observation only.

I hope this report provides your department with the information needed to be able to make plans for rehabilitation, retrofit and restoration and aid in the development of an action plan and a 5 year Capital Plan. I am available to attend any meeting/s you deem necessary to further review the report and address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy A. White CPSI

PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

PREPARED FOR
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Prepared by:
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PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Bishop Playground, 25 Columbia Road

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.11.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Playground Environments, 1995

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The equipment is adjacent to the school playground. It is unclear if this playground is being used by the school. As the school has a playground for 5-12, this site could be best served with a 2-5 year old play space. The equipment is off the road on a slope and hard to see from the street. There was a lot of 'washout' at the time of the site visit. There are drainage issues that need to be reviewed. Landscaping is also needed.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The lack of surfacing [none] creates a hazardous situation; which is enough to recommend this playground be closed. This includes the swing area [remove the swing seats]. This area has zero impact attenuation. If the school currently uses this playground, I recommend closing it off from their use. In addition, what little surfacing there is, does not drain. It is hard to tell where or if any resilient surfacing may have been.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The main frame of the structure is in good condition. The manufacturer, Playground Environments is 'out of business'; therefore retrofitting of needed parts is not an option.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Remove the swing seats. There is no use zone as the swings, the structure and the perimeter encroach on one another.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to a newer playground adjacent to this site, it would not be cost effective to retain this equipment.
- Consider this site for a future playground for aged 2-5 years.
- Remove the swings.
- Address the hazards and do not retro fit with parts from another manufacturer.
- Review drainage.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Buzzell Field, 29 Summer Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.10.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., 2001

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The playground is located far from a major street, and can easily be missed. Parking is limited. As evident from the foot traffic on the day of the site visit, the sidewalk is used for walking as a connector to other streets. The entrance is attractive with a long sidewalk, which is in good condition. As trees cover most of the area, the lack of sunlight creates dampness and increased vegetation.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is primarily EWF. Two areas have accessible routes of travel to an adaptive seat and a swing seat with PIP. There is a concrete curb that could help hold unitary material in place.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

Although this structure is close to 28 years old, the use has been minimal. Components still may be able to be retrofitted in order to comply with current standards.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swings are in poor condition and are being vandalized. The swing beams and all hardware need replacement. The beam connector to hardware is not a standard swing hanger/collar. They are welded to the beam and are being compromised.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional EWF is needed. Consider the wear mat product [grass mats] that can be easily installed over the EWF.
- Retrofit non-compliant equipment.
- Trees need to be pruned.
- Retain swing posts only.
- New swing beams and all hardware needed for the same.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Crosby Park, 34 Winter Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.2.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Burke, 2002

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

Access is good from Winter and Oxford. However, a curb cut with ADA Access would be a good improvement. It is my impression that the school uses the equipment; therefore I am unsure if access to both the school and the neighborhood is desired. There are two sides that have vegetation and provide a buffer. Both sides need pruning of trees. The site has a number of 'hiding places' that provide shelter. At the time of the visit, there were 2 homeless people at the site trying to find shelter from the rain.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF and is in poor condition; it needs raking and additional EWF. Wear pads are needed under all high use areas [swings and slides]. I do not recommend unitary materials at this site. The cost of the PIP will exceed the worth of the equipment and the PIP will outlast the equipment.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

This structure is in fair to good condition. A chain ladder needs to be replaced.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swings are in good condition – but the lack of surfacing needs to be addressed, as well as the addition of wear pads. The site furnishings are also in good condition.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not consider PIP/unitary surfacing at this time.
- Cut all trees back and up to at least 84".
- Replace all hardware on the swings.
- This site would be a good area to consider 'grass mats' due to the rectangular shape of the area.
- Verify if the school uses this site.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Cutter Playground, 30 Robbins Road

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.11.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Miracle, HAGS, 2001

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The playground is located between 2 streets, on a lower section of land [below final grade of asphalt] and is not easily seen. It is evident there has been vandalism at the site. Vegetation is overgrown, and the trees needs pruning both in the playground and at the borders. The interior of the approach is in poor condition.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is EWF and in poor condition; tree roots are on top of the surface. Weeds, trash and miscellaneous debris are strewn throughout both the play surface and the green space. Because the equipment is installed below the grade of the street, there is a drainage issue. There are no site lines to see straight through to the equipment [see photo of tree covered areas].

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The structure is in poor condition. The posts and decks are the most integral part of the structure. The decks and stairs have cracks and rust, they are in dangerously poor condition. In my professional opinion, the events are too complex for the 2-5 age bracket.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swings and a stand up see saw are in fair condition. The frames off the swings are in good condition, but all existing hardware needs to be replaced.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to where this playground is located, this site should be in the top of the rehabilitation priority list.
- New decks are a priority. There may be a possibility to retrofit all decks and stairs to extend the life of the structure.
- Drainage should be reviewed.
- Consider new equipment to be age appropriate for ages 2-5 years old.
- At the time of removal, include the see saw and swings.
- In my professional opinion, the swings could immediately benefit from new hardware and new surfacing.
- Add multiple 5-12 age appropriate labels on the structure and see saw; as I suspect the primary users are aged 2 – 5 years.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Florence Dallin, 185 Florence St

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.1.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☐ 12-17 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., 2013

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The site conditions are very good with very good access. In a neighborhood setting, trees line the street and there is fencing that separates the equipment from the street.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is EWF and PIP. The PIP is in good condition. The EWF is in poor condition and has not been maintained. Although there are wear pads under swing seats, they are not in the proper place, thus there are gullies. The track ride has EWF and PIP surfacing. Additional EWF is needed by the track ride. If the track ride was intended to meet ADA, it is not due to the drastic sloping. The first bay of swings needs a unitary surface to meet MAAB. A sand box is within the playground, and due to this, there is sand strewn on the PIP surfacing; the sand will rub off the EDPM top layer of the PIP.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The equipment is in very good condition. In my professional opinion, while compliant, this was a poor design with a slide exiting into another slide. The wiggle ladder is the incorrect size and is rusting. Moving

parts on equipment must now be checked more often for wear [ie: climbers, horizontal events, etc]. PVC covered components with any cracked PVC is extremely painful creating a pinch between two cracked pieces.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Swing frames and clamps are in good condition. Moving parts and chains need to be replaced and should now be a month-to-month review for wear. The sand from the sand box is everywhere and is slippery when rubbing with the PIP. You may want to consider a better type of box, or a cover to retain the sand.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintenance to be more frequent, as this is playground is also used by the school.
- Standardize trash receptacles with liners and tops to keep animals out. The 55 gallon drum should have a top due to the proximity of the playground.
- Replace the wiggle ladders.
- Although the playground is 'newer', it has a heavy user base including the school and afterschool programs.
- There are minor needs for the next 10 years with a standard of care that should be put in place.
- The playground is newer and there are many 'voids' in the PIP. I recommend a head drop test be done.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Hibbert Playground, Hibbert Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.1.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: LSI, Henderson, BigToys, 2014

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The approach to the playground is on a hill. There is a sidewalk that goes around the playground, there is also fencing. Hibbert is a good example of 'best use of site', and is truly age appropriate for ages 2-12. It may be one of the smaller parks, but it is a very attractive park with a natural setting, including rocks and GFRC equipment. The site lines are very good at this playground. There is a good amount of shade, with a circular bench around a tree.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF and PIP. Sloping will need to be reviewed in order to meet MAAB. The site should continue to use both EWF and PIP to retain the natural setting. A 'top off' of EWF is needed.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The equipment is in very good condition and is actually age appropriate with equality of play for ages 2 – 12 years.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

GFRC Materials, swings, embankment slide and clubhouse are all in good condition.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surfacing – EWF and PIP in good condition.
- Safety labels are needed on swings.
- ADA Parking needs to be review and access up to entry also needs to be reviewed, as the area is on a slope.
- A unitary surface will be needed [but a walkway throughout is sufficient]. This work could possibly be done from the operating budget for the playground.
- As the equipment and surfacing are in good condition, this playground should be a low priority list [except for maintain the EWF].
- Signage should be reviewed. There is a 'sample' [attached] of a sign at Hibbert that is also located at various other locations.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Hill's Hill, 422 Summer Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Earthscapes, 2006

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

This site is very attractive upon approach, with a bench-lined walkway that draws one in to further explore the area. However, the entire area is not handicap accessible. There is ample parking due to the proximity to the Ice Rink. Site lines are limited once at the playground, but supervision is manageable.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is PIP, and is in good condition. In my professional opinion, based on current wear, an overlay will be needed in approximately 3-5 years. The surfacing is poor at the swing area – this is the only non-PIP area.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

This structure is in good condition. Labeling indicates, that it is age appropriate for 5 – 12 years. However, the day of the site visit, there were multiple children playing that were under age 5. Due to ramping and

several low events, it then becomes available to ages 2 -12, but supervision should be emphasized with ages 2-5 with new signage.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Swing frames, but bays are empty.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommend better labeling for age groups.
- Add a swing event with an ADA route of travel by using 'grass mats' to the swing. Another area with swing/s could be used with EWF alone.
- Cut back vegetation.
- Most important at this site: construct an accessible route of travel to the playground.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Locke Playground, 51 Davis Road

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☐ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Gametime, 2005

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

This site is on a 'one way' street and there is little parking. The playground is a 'walk to' or traditional 'pocket park'. There are many 'home toys' that have been dropped off for younger children. There is very good handicap accessibility to the structure, which includes a ramp. This is a good site where small changes would greatly benefit the site. Trees and bushes need to be cut back and vegetation should be removed. There is fencing around the playground and Apartments/Condos are adjacent to the playground. There is a walkway all the way around the playground, which proves to be a nice benefit to the area.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF, and is in poor condition. The surface needs to be weeded and the vegetation should be cut back. Additional EWF is needed.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

This equipment is in fair condition and has standard maintenance needs. With this standard maintenance, the equipment should last 5-10 more years. Note: the ramp connector plate for sidewalk to infill is not attached and is free floating. Although there is ramping, an accessible route of travel is needed at grade.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Recommend removal of the 'straps' on the adaptive swing [children have been strangled with these types of straps]. Consider the plastic harness type seat. The belt seats are much too high due to the lack of surfacing. The swing chain needs to be replaced.

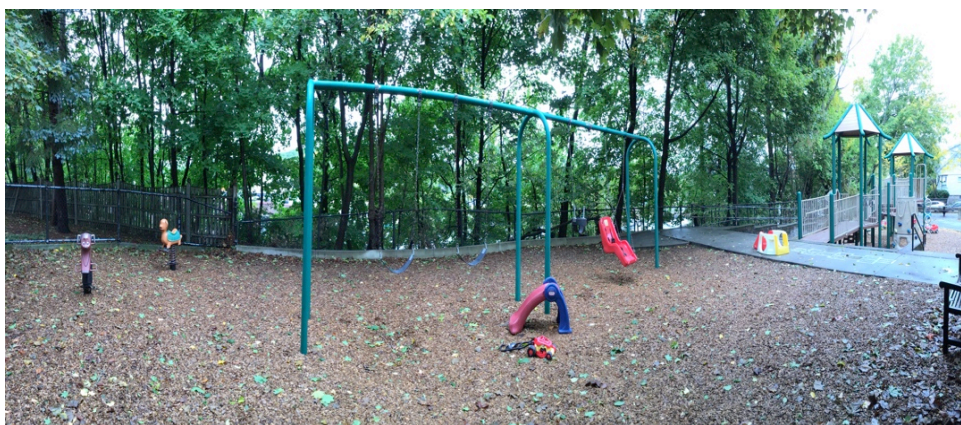
5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plan for unitary surfacing, if only to individual pieces. It is not cost effective at this time for PIP. Grassmats would be a good alternative.
- Enhance play opportunities for the 2-5 age group.
- One seat on the table needs to be replaced. Manufacturer is unknown.
- Landscape cleanup and pruning is needed.
- Additional EWF needed.
- Sand, touch up and paint in certain areas.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Magnolia Park, 40 Hebert Road

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.2.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Berliner, 2016

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The approach and access to this site are very good. This is a beautiful tree lined area, but trees should be pruned. There is a need for ADA Parking spots. Many activities are offered at this site. Site lines and layout of this park are very good. Note: see attached photograph of the basketball unit. While this is not part of the playground, it's proximity to it invites younger children to explore the area. There is a 'protrusion' caused by one of the handles, that could cause injury to a child. During the site visit, there were 3 toddlers running around this area.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF – the surfacing needs raking and maintenance on a more regular basis. The site needs to be reviewed for best use of unitary material. As this is a 'newer' playground, consider installing the entire area with PIP. As it is a larger area, a layout of PIP could be done in sections.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

All of equipment is in excellent condition.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The site furnishings are in very good condition [new], although the picnic tables do not meet ADA, as they are unreachable by a person with a disability.

The swings are in good condition.

Maintenance of sandboxes is challenging. A cap top [concrete] should be installed to hold in the sand. The digger needs to be removed. It is an older style that has shear and crush points. Signage and labels are needed – contact Manufacturers Representative.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cut tree limbs up above any component.
- Replace sand in sandbox once a year. This is a public park – clean, healthy, sand is important.
- Try to manage and remove older 'home toys' that are not clean, broken etc.
- FYI: There were multiple day care providers on site.
- As this is a newer playground, the site plan is available to estimate unitary material [PIP].
- This site is low on the Arlington priority list for equipment needs.
- All new/newer playgrounds should be able to meet ADA and MAAB laws. Any shortcomings should be able to be rectified.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: McClennen Park, 700 Summer Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☐ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., 2006

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

There is a very good approach/entrance to the site. This is a visually attractive and ADA friendly space.

Various play activities available, and the area backs up to ballfields. Parking is excellent.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The area was recently resurfaced with PIP Overlay and is in good condition.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

All equipment is in very good condition.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT

None.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Change out the chains on the toddler swings. Purchase galvanized chain – 4 chains at the 50” length.
- Optional: the Sand Panel does not ‘move’. Order a Zoo Panel.
- Barrier needs to replace an existing guardrail [on stair].

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Menotomy Rocks Park, 129 Jason Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.2.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Playground Environments, 1996

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

While the area is beautiful, this is not an ideal location for a playground. The area is very hard to find with no markings, and is not handicap accessible. There is little or no visibility from any side. Stumps were being used in the playground as a play piece. There was trash strewn throughout the playground. There is no approach to the playground near the entrance. Parking is poor. The equipment is also in very poor [dangerous] condition.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is in poor condition, both in the playground area and in and around the picnic tables. The edging used to retaining surfacing is in poor condition. Animal feces, bagged and unbagged, were in and around the surfacing.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The Manufacturer of this playground is no longer in business. Much of the playground does not comply to current standards. A large tree has grown in the middle of the playground. The playground is age appropriate for 5-12 years, except for the swings – being appropriate for 2 – 12 years. In my professional opinion, there is no value in retaining this playground, it is dangerous, and is in very poor condition.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swings are out of compliance due to inadequate use zone, hardware and chain status. The hardware cannot be retrofitted. The vegetation next to the swings is overgrown.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove all equipment.
- Remove all logs.
- Remove all site furnishings.
- Change out the existing drinking fountain and add a 'water bottle filler' type, ADA compliant, and also a dog 'drinking' bowl.
- If replaced, a good deal of site work will be needed. Consider the playground be closer to the entrance of the park.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: PARALLEL PARK, 167 Medford Street

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☐ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., Burke, 2013

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The Park is located on two busy streets with limited street parking. There is a green space and basketball court, which enhances this otherwise 'pocket park'. The area that the 5-12 equipment resides is a very large space – visually it looks awkward [too much space, very little equipment].

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

This is a very good example of lack of surfacing. The 2-5 area stays damp due to the amount of trees. The 5-12 area is also in need of additional surfacing. Note that the filter fabric soil separator is visible. The wood fiber should be 12" thick, followed by filter fabric, then the sub-base. If fabric is visible, it indicates little or no surfacing.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The 5-12 structure is non-compliant and should be removed due to the nature of the non-compliance. The deck openings are more than 15" wide.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

All swings need new hardware and chain. The belt seats needs to be replaced. The spring see saw is broken, and parts are no longer available; suggest to remove.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cut back trees to 84"
- Additional EWF needed [after vegetation clean up]
- Change out parts on the swings
- Smaller structure is in fair condition – suggest to retrofit
- Do not consider unitary surfacing material at this time.
- Remove the 5-12 structure and consider installing a unique independent piece/s of equipment. The space is open and this would enhance the value of the park.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: **Parmenter Park, 17 Irving Street**

DATE OF SITE VISIT: **10.12.2019**

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: **Playground Environments, 1993**

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

Parmenter playground is adjacent to a private school, access for ADA is fair, but there is major sloping.

Parking is limited and the area is congested in a residential area. The play area is close to the road and hard to see.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is poor and more definition of the play area is needed. The play surface is 'non existent' in some areas. Until a decision is made on the play area as a 'whole', consider 'holding off' on bringing in surfacing. The physical site is an awkward large piece of property without definition. Concentrate on using the EWF around and at the equipment only.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The equipment is a mixture of wood, metal and plastic.

Remove the front spiral slide and board the top now. The slide is cracked and cannot be replaced, as the Manufacturer is no longer in business.

Order seven [7] pieces of four [4] links of chain. This can be done through any Manufacturer. The age of the equipment and inability to retrofit may indicate the need for removal of equipment and surface.

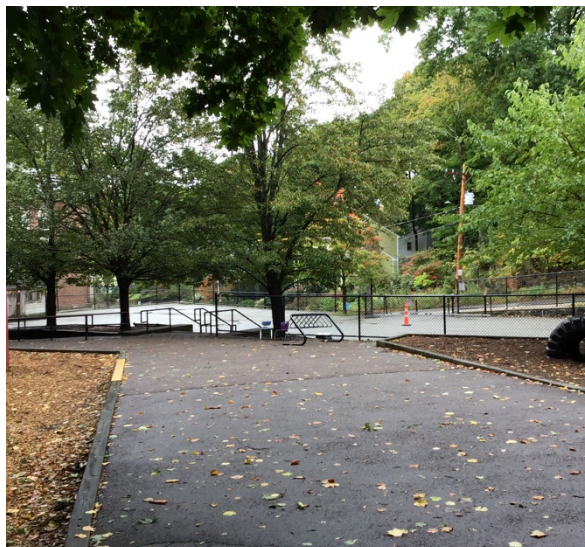
4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Rubber tires are buried in the ground. They are very slippery and full of debris. A tire swing has been removed. Remove the tires.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove and replace the links.
- Cut back vegetation.
- If the school uses the playground, they should be aware that the equipment is in 'fair to poor' condition. Efforts may be made to repair the equipment as an interim step.
- If the school does not use the playground, a few independent pieces of equipment could be considered for the future.
- This playground could be on the priority list, but first, the user needs to be identified [school and/or neighborhood].
- If the Pre-K children are using this site, I recommend not allowing them to use the site, as it is not age appropriate.
- In my professional opinion, I suggest to remove and replace the swings with a 5-12 climbing net.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Peirce, 85 Park Ave

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., 1998

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

Access to the playground is good. There is access from 3 different sides of the playground. There are good site lines from all sides. Located in a residential setting with homes on all sides. Next to the playground is a basketball court and a several pieces of fitness-type equipment.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is in fair condition. Weeding and a 'top off' of EWF is needed. The site has a good linear layout that prevents the splay and loss of EWF.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

There is evidence of the lack of maintenance, especially with moving parts. The red cable pieces have snapped, incorrect hardware has been installed on a component, and the swings need new hardware. There is evidence of heavy wear and tear on the decks and components. Parts and maintenance is needed now to allow a longer life at the site.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

Swing hardware, cable and other moving parts need to be replaced now. It is cost effective to put this structure back into service – which will allow several more years of use. Additional benches are recommended.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

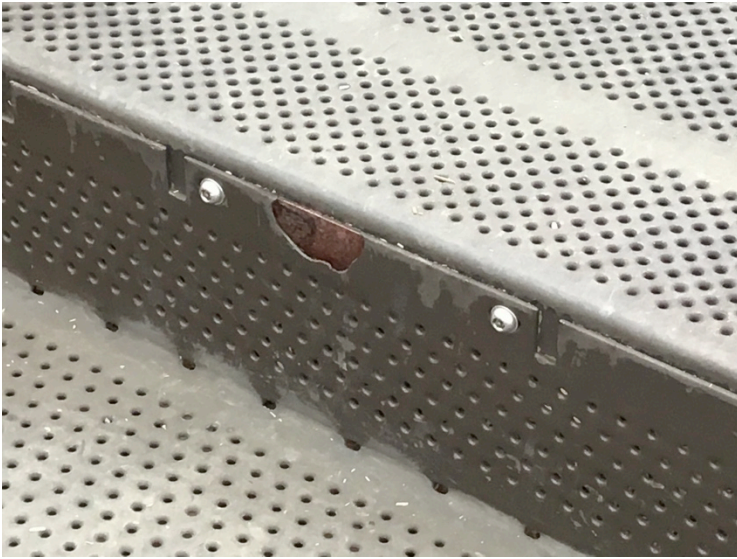
- Replacement parts are required for the structure.
- Proper hardware needs to be installed on the disk challenge.
- New hardware is needed for swings.
- Review with the school – what is the amount of use on the equipment at the opposite side?

Consider - should monies be allocated for both parts and unitary surfacing?

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Poets Corner, 300 Wadsworth

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.1.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, 2013

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

This park is located in a neighborhood setting and has a good amount of shade and room for future growth. There are no ADA parking spaces. The approach can be from multiple entrances, but is compromised because of the poor parking conditions. Boulders are used as 'bollards' to keep vehicles out. While the area has a good approach, all surfacing, equipment, walkways, and tennis courts are in disrepair. The park does not present itself well upon approach, due to its deterioration.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is sand, which is not considered an accessible surface by ADA. However, there is a walkway to the play area to connect to new surfacing. Swing safety surface material is unacceptable and unsafe, as it does not provide sufficient impact attenuation. While sand can be used as an impact-attenuating surface, it does not meet ADA or MAAB.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

Many components, decks, and transfer modules are in poor condition. It is cost prohibitive to retain equipment or consider retrofitting.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The geodome needs to be removed, as do the swings and diggers. Swings do not have the proper use zone; the to/fro motion needs to be extended. The individual pieces are in poor condition.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Poets Corner should be considered as a top priority for rehabilitation.
- In the short term, remove front swings, take adaptive swing and switch out with tot seat.
- Bench frame is in good condition. However, all slats and hardware need to be replaced.
- Removing dome will allow for one bay of seats with two belt seats [to be equitable with seats if a short term fix approach is appropriate].
- The site and location is very good – the equipment is poor.
- Consider unique 'theme based' play equipment/pieces reflecting the name of the park.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Robbins Farm, Eastern Avenue

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.1.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, 2003

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

The street is very busy and there is a school playground across the street from Robbins Farm. This park is both an anchor park and a destination park. The approach is good throughout the playground, but there is heavy traffic with cars moving fast, and crossing the street is challenging. When Robbins is restored, there will be traffic concerns. Consider a traffic study.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF – and in poor condition. Surfacing has not been maintained. The site is too large for the equipment installed at the playground. EWF is wasted in all of the non use zone areas.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

Many components are very worn and should be removed and replaced asap. Robbins is at the top of the list for rehabilitation. Robbins has a large user base and retrofitting should be done until such time of removal. Expect approximately 40k in retrofitting costs [does not include embankment slide].

Branches are very low and need to be cut up at least 7 feet, as they have encroached onto the structure.

Regardless of any work being done, both structures should be power washed.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The HAGS and LSI teeter-totters are broken; neither meets ADA, based on type of equipment. In the interim, block off the top of the embankment slides with plywood and add a 'danger or caution' sign. The location of the site furnishings does not allow for proper supervision. The hillside slide is closed, parts are obsolete and it was not installed properly to meet current ASTM standards for slope.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Robbins Farm should be a priority for rehabilitation. The footprint is good and the swing frames are also in good condition. However, the needed parts cannot wait. Unless this is one of the first playgrounds for rehabilitation, funding is needed to repair.
- Remove the two seesaw/teeter totters.
- Replace all swing hardware.
- Replace or remove cable pieces on the structure.
- Install hardware on the clatter bridge.
- Dog signs may be required, as during the visit, 2 dogs were urinating in the play area.
- Review the barn now and take safety measures to eliminate users from getting splinters and laceration.
- Placement of site furnishings should be reviewed during rehabilitation.
- Remove the Robbins Field Embankment sign.
- When the site is redesigned, better use of the property should be considered.
- Include a 'hill' slide in the new design.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Spy Pond Park, 21 Pond Lane

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.11.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☒ 12+ YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, 2014

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

☒ **POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.**
Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.
Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant
Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

Spy Pond is a destination and anchor park, primarily due to the multiple activities that are offered. Parking is good at this site. The ADA access to the park is very good, but does not meet MAAB in the playground. Recent construction has enhanced the look of the park, but will also then increase use on a playground that is in very poor condition.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF. There are some wear mats in various areas to minimum the gullies, but overall surfacing on the interior is in poor condition. The placement of equipment has left a larger area than needed at this site. Thus, EWF is 'wasted' in much of the area [same as Robbins Park].

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

Both structures cannot be retrofitted. Several components are well out of compliance and are well beyond the current ASTM and CPCS guidelines. PVC is worn and is rusting. In my professional opinion, this is a playground area has many hazards and is dangerous. This area is a priority for a complete rehabilitation.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swings and spring riders are in good condition. All other individual equipment is in poor condition. The swings could be repurposed now, but with a new layout and playground they should be disposed.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The structures are well beyond their years of use and should be removed sooner rather than later. They are in very poor condition.
- The independent circle climbers should be removed now.
- In my professional opinion, I recommend a full restoration and the removal of the spring riders for future use at the new play area or reinstalled at another site.
- PIP should be considered for the entire interior and is well suited for Spy Pond Park.
- Design of the playground should have surfacing in the forefront, as the cost will be more than the equipment.
- The park rehabilitation will increase overall use and it is important that this playground be at the top of the priority list.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Stratton School Playground , 180 Mountain Ave

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 11.7.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS ☒ 5-12 YRS ☐ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Little Tikes, 2008

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

Stratton is a school playground and is a very large site. There is a large blacktop sloped area, a large playground for 5-12 years, and a smaller area for 2-5 years. An estimated 200 children were using the entire play area during the site visit, with more than half of those children on the equipment. Multiple after school programs were onsite, as well as the general public. The playground was overcrowded. Access to the playground is good; the site meets ADA. There are 4 streets abutting the site. The sloped area with boulders and rocks lends itself to good supervision as it is that much higher than the playground.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is PIP around the structures and EWF in both of the swing areas. At the time of the site visit, there were leaves on and embedded dirt in the PIP surface. In my professional opinion, the impact attenuation of the PIP would not pass a head drop test.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The structure for 5-12 connects to independent pieces (continuous play). The connecting decks, stairs and bridges are worn and rusting and need to be replacement. The 2-5 structure is in better condition due to less use. Site lines are impaired – as I could not see the 2-5 area through the 5-12 area.

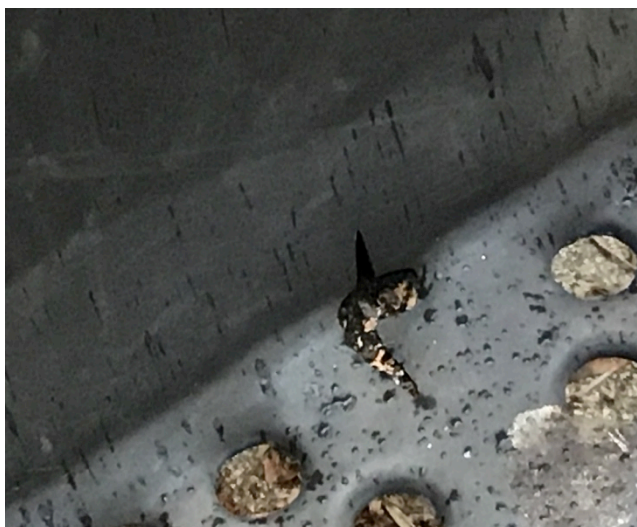
4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

There is a bee spring rider in good condition. The swing frames are in good condition. Swing hardware should be replaced.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider new decks and bridges. PIP surfacing will not have to be disturbed, as decks are above ground. This will be a 'short term fix', but heavy use is taking its toll on the decks and bridges.
- Remove leaves and power wash the structure and PIP surfacing.
- Replace and purchase new rope for rope walk.
- This playground should be amongst the first to be rehabilitated. If repairs and investments are made now, the site should last for several more years.
- Park and Recreation playgrounds that are also used by schools, need additional maintenance. The playground needs to be maintained on a monthly basis, at least.
- For future planning, the swings and the 2-5 structure should be installed differently. The swings should be located closer to the back, and the 2-5 closer to the front.
- The slope of the land may lend itself to an embankment slide.

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: **Waldo Park, 65 Waldo Road**

DATE OF SITE VISIT: **10.2.2019**

AGE APPROPRIATE: 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS ☒ 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: **GameTime, 2005**

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

There is access from two areas, both meet ADA once in the overall park. The approach to the structure is fair due to the grossly overgrown trees, which hinder visibility. There are many 'homemade/individual' signs that should be replaced with formal signage. The swings are 'outside' the structure, making site lines very important. The setting of the neighborhood and its location indicates a high use area.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surface is EWF – additional EWF is needed in both structure and swing area. There are wear pads by the belt swings.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

This structure is in good condition. Replace the 'burned' store panel now. The one structure is age appropriate for age 5-12 years, but spring riders are appropriate for 2-5 years. If the largest user base is 2-

5 years, there seems to be inequitable play opportunities for that age, as evidence by the 'home toys' at the site.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

The swing beams are in good conditions, but all hardware is in fair condition.

The belt swings could benefit by unitary surfacing at least to one seat [asphalt is intact]. There is poor visibility from the enclosed play area to the belt swing – due to poor placement of equipment. The site furnishings are in good condition.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The chain ladder on the structure needs to be replaced [Gametime].
- Consider replacing the burned store panel.
- Retain equipment, as it is in good condition, and install unitary material now. The interior of the fence is a small footprint, thus making unitary material easy/ier to install.
- Add unitary material to the first swing seat closest to the sidewalk, and change one belt seat to an adaptive seat.
- Switch placement of the picnic tables and bench. As the playground has a fence, an area to eat food items should be segregated from the play area [ie: play inside the fence; eat outside the fence].

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



PLAYGROUND NAME & ADDRESS: Whittemore Robbins, 700 Mass Ave

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 10.12.2019

AGE APPROPRIATE: ☒ 2-5 YRS 5-12 YRS 2-12 YRS

MANUFACTURER and YEAR OF ORIGINAL INSTALL: Landscape Structures, Inc., 1998

OVERALL CONDITION OF PLAYGROUND:

POOR: HAZARD 1: Loss of life, Permanent disability or body part.

Condition should be corrected immediately.

☒ **FAIR: HAZARD 2: Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.**

Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

☒ **GOOD: HAZARD 3: Minor [non-disabling] injury/Non-Compliant**

Condition should be corrected when time allows.

1. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS AND APPROACH

This is a somewhat 'hidden' playground for ages 2-5 yrs. Based on the year of installation and the current condition of the structure – it appears to have very little use. The area has public buildings adjacent, as it is a 'walk thru' from many points. This is a pocket park - it is unknown if the parking is private or public.

Signage is needed.

2. VISUAL SURFACING REVIEW

The surfacing is sand. All the sand should be removed and replaced for health reasons. Consider using EWF. Access is good from the parking lot, but not when you reach the play area. If 'grass mats' are added to the surfacing, it will meet ADA and MAAB for handicap accessibility. The mats could 'go over' the sand, and then be 'topped off' with more sand.

3. COMPONENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The structure is in very good condition. Consider power washing, as there is 'ground in' dirt and sand. The grit produced by the sand, shortens the structures life.

4. FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT [INCLUDING SWINGS]

None.

5. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

Whittemore is a beautiful area and centrally located - but needs attention to landscaping.

Remove the 'green bench' that has all four support buried deep in the ground.

Signage is needed to define the parking space [and its ownership].

ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



ARLINGTON PARKS | GENERAL SITE OVERVIEW

RESILIENT SURFACING

Inadequate surfacing remains the number one reason why injuries occur on playgrounds. Most of Arlington's playgrounds have loose fill, and also lack the proper surfacing. Loose fill, especially sand, engineered wood fiber [EWF], wood chips and pea stone are the least expensive way to meet compliance to ASTM 1292 – which is the 'Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment'. However, for these surfaces to meet the impact attenuation required, the surfaces need to be maintained. The following types of playground surfacing are considered acceptable on the Federal [DOJ/ADA Dept. of Justice Americans with Disability Act] and State [MAAB – 'Massachusetts Architectural Access Board' level:

- *Sand*: acceptable for playground surfacing, but does not meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Pea Stone*: acceptable for playground surfacing, but does not meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Wood chips*: acceptable for playground surfacing, but does not meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Engineered Wood Fiber [EWF]*: acceptable for playground surfacing, does meet ADA, but does not meet MAAB.
- *Shredded Rubber*: acceptable for playground surfacing, but does not meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Poured in Place Rubber [PIP]*: accessible and acceptable to meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Playground Turf*: accessible and acceptable to meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Grass Mats [product name]*: accessible and acceptable to meet ADA and MAAB.
- *Rubber Tiles*: accessible and acceptable to meet ADA and MAAB.

Over the past 8 – 10 years, there has been a strong effort in Massachusetts to install unitary materials at playgrounds to provide equal access for all abilities of users. MAAB requires that

the route of travel into the playground must provide access to every piece of equipment. DOJ/ADA states that you can provide an accessible route to and into the playground with EWF. However, the MAAB overrules the DOJ/ADA guidelines. In Massachusetts, all playgrounds must use unitary materials. In Massachusetts, there are no grandfathered clauses, however variances are acceptable.

SAND

Whittemore and Poets Corner have sand surfacing. At Whittemore, I recommend installing new sand and include new edging. Grass mats can be utilized over the sand to meet MAAB requirements. Poets Corner needs complete rehabilitation and is in the priority group. PIP surfacing should be considered during the rehab phase.

PIP RUBBER

Florence Dallin, McClennan, Stratton, Hibbert, Hill's Hill and Buzzell have PIP in either the entire playground or partial.

- Florence: PIP is in good condition, however I recommend a HIC [head injury criterion test]. There seems to be some voids [soft spots] below the PIP.
- McClennan: PIP is in good condition with a recent overlay done.
- Stratton: PIP is in poor/fair condition. However the status of the equipment, will dictate the future of the surface.
- Hibbert: Surface is PIP and EWF – both in good condition.
- Hill's Hill: PIP is in good condition. Overlay may be needed in approximately 3-5 years. Swings need unitary material.
- Buzzell: Primarily EWF, but has a PIP accessible route of travel to swings.

EWF | Engineered Wood Fiber

All remaining playgrounds have EWF; some sites have wear pads. All sites with EWF need either additional [top off] EWF or full depth installations of EWF. Retrofit of the equipment, surfacing needs and area maintenance [remove vegetation, tree pruning, etc] should all be done simultaneously.



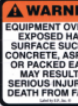
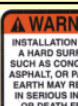




SIGNAGE and SAFETY LABELING

In general, the signage is 'fair – poor' at all locations. There are several sites with outdated contact information; there are also 'home made signs'.

Suggested sign verbiage [be consistent at each park]:

- Name of the park
- Provided and maintained by 'Arlington Parks and Recreation'
- If you see something of concern or needs repairs contact: *provide a general contact phone number for Park and Recreation.*
- Park and play areas only open from Dawn until Dusk, Police will take notice.
- No dogs/pet allowed in the playground area. To report a problem *[provide contact # for Animal Control]*.
- For the health and safety of all – NO smoking, vaping, drug or alcohol use is allowed on these grounds.
- Help keep our parks clean! Bring out what you bring in, or discard your trash in a receptacle.
- Note: review with the Police Department and Town Counsel regarding liability with specific wording on signage.
- All playgrounds assessed need safety labeling. See examples attached.

EXAMPLE OF PLAYGROUND SAFETY LABELS

 <p>WARNING</p> <p>Children have died when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">drawings on their clothing, or items around their neck, caught on slides or other playground equipment.ropes, net bushes, or similar objects attached to playground equipment got caught around their necks. <p>BEFORE PLAYING, REMOVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">loose and neck drawings from children's clothing.belts and items around their necks.ropes and bushes connected through the device.ropes, net bushes, or similar objects attached to the playground equipment. <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.3</p>	<p>Strangulation Warning Label; (3.75" x 3.75") See CPSC Section 3.2.1, pages 14 and 15, and ASTM #F1487-11 Section 14.2.3. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of a user being strangled on the playground and what steps to take to mitigate it, and provides graphics for complete message clarity.</p> <p>Note: CPSC says to place this label on or near "slides or other equipment", however, entrances to the entire play area are the best locations so that the "message is conveyed" in a timely manner.</p>		
 <p>WARNING</p> <p>Playground equipment and/or surfacing in direct sunlight may reach temperatures high enough to cause serious burn injuries within seconds. Supervisors should check for hot play surfaces and/or surfacing before letting children play.</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.4</p>	<p>"Hot Surface" Warning Label; (2.5" x 2.5") See CPSC Sections 2.1, 2.4.2.1, 2.5.3, 5.3.6, and ASTM #F1487-11 Section 14.2.4. This label warns the caregiver about the hazard of burn injuries and to check surfacing and/or equipment before use to mitigate burn injuries.</p>		
 <p>WARNING</p> <p>EQUIPMENT OVER AN EXPOSED HARD SURFACE SUCH AS CONCRETE, ASPHALT OR PACKED EARTH MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH FROM FALLS.</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.5</p>	<p>Surfacing Warning Label (version "A") (2.5" x 2.5") complies with ASTM #F1487-11, Section 14.2.5. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of play equipment located over hard surfaces. The purpose of this label is to serve as a constant reminder to provide and maintain appropriate surfacing.</p>		
 <p>WARNING</p> <p>INSTALLATION OVER A HARD SURFACE SUCH AS CONCRETE, ASPHALT, OR PACKED EARTH MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH FROM FALLS.</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.5</p>	<p>Surfacing Warning Label (version "B") (2.5" x 2.5") complies with ASTM #F1487-11, Section 14.2.5. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of play equipment located over hard surfaces. The purpose of this label is to serve as a constant reminder to provide and maintain appropriate surfacing.</p>		
 <p>ADULT SUPERVISION IS RECOMMENDED</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.2</p>	<p>"Adult Supervision Is Recommended" Label (2.5" x 2.5") tells users and caregivers that the playground is not intended as a place for unsupervised play. See CPSC Sections 1.6, 2.2.7, and the ASTM #F1487 "Introduction" and Section 14.2.2.</p>		
 <p>FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-5 YEARS</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.1</p>	 <p>FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-12 YEARS</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.1</p>	 <p>FOR CHILDREN AGES 5-12 YEARS</p> <p>CPSC 1487-11, Sec. 14.2.1</p>	<p>Age Group Labels (2.5" x 2.5" each) help with age separation, which is critical to safety and correct inspection evaluations! "For kids ages 2-5 years", "For kids ages 5-12 years", "For kids ages 2-12 years". CPSC Section 2.2.6 says "Labels posted in the playground area or on the equipment should give some guidance to supervisors as to the age appropriateness of the equipment." Also, CPSC Section 2.2.7 says "Supervisors should look for posted signs indicating the appropriate age of the users and direct children to equipment appropriate for their age." See ASTM Standard #F1487 Section 5.2, and Section 14.2.1 that requires these labels as well.</p>

SITE FURNISHINGS

All sites have benches, trash receptacles, and most sites have picnic tables. Most of the trash receptacles in the Arlington Parks are 55 gallon black steel drums without tops.

There are multiple manufacturers [of the trash receptacles] and varying types of material including steel, PVC coating, wood and recycled plastic, iron, and aluminum. I do not recommend 'steel' site furnishings in playgrounds. While they are attractive, they hold heat in and could cause a burn to a user, they are expensive, they tend to rust, and have a lot of 'wide slat spacing' that allows items to drop through. They are better suited for passive parks or town commons. I would recommend developing a standard type of style and material to be used at your Parks. When site furnishings are consistent at each Park, it allows for ease of maintenance and reflects continuity to the community.

SITE FURNISHINGS



SITE FURNISHINGS



FENCING



PER ASTM F 2049-11/17: 7.6.2 SINGLE LEAF PEDESTRIAN GATES SHALL OPEN OUTWARD AWAY FROM THE PLAY ENVIRONMENT, SHALL BE SELF CLOSING AND SELF LATCHING. 7.10.1 THERE SHALL BE NO PARTS OF THE FENCE OR GATE THAT IS A PROTRUSION HAZARD. THREE PROJECTION GAUGES WERE USED AND TWO HAZARDS WERE FOUND. THE 'U' BOLT CONNECTION AND THE HARDWARE CONNECTED TO THE 'U' BOLT.

ARLINGTON PARKS | RECOMMENDATIONS

RETRO FIT EQUIPMENT | ACCESSIBLE ROUTE OF TRAVEL WITH GRASSMATS

<u>Park Name</u>	<u>Estimated Cost *</u>
• Waldo Park.....	\$8,000
• Buzzell.....	\$11,000
• Locke	\$12,000
• Crosby Park.....	\$12,000
• Florence Dallin.....	\$6,000
• Magnolia.....	\$6,000
• Parallel Park [age 2-5 only].....	\$10,000
• Whittemore.....	\$7,000

RETRO FIT EQUIPMENT | PIP PATHWAY OR SECTIONS OF PIP

<u>Park Name</u>	<u>Estimated Cost *</u>
• Hibbert.....	\$10,000
• Hill's Hill	\$7,000

**Best guess estimate for budgeting purposes only. Estimated cost includes supply and install of surfacing [top off only; not full removal]. Clean up of site, prior to additional surfacing, is strongly recommended.*

ARLINGTON PARKS | RECOMMENDATIONS

FULL PIP AT TIME OF PLAYGROUND REHABILITATION

Park Name

- Poet's Corner
- Robbins Farm
- Spy Pond
- Peirce
- Cutter
- Parmenter
- Menotomy Rocks Park
- Parallel Park [5 -12 years]
- Bishop
- Whittemore

Note: no cost estimate provided

PARKS IN OVERALL BEST CONDITION*

Park Name

- Magnolia
- McClennen
- Waldo Park
- Hibbert
- Hill's Hill

*Note: *Minor repairs and surfacing needs at these parks.*

ARLINGTON PARKS

PARKS ACCORDING TO HAZARD TYPE | RENOVATION

DEFINITIONS OF REPAIR TYPE

Hazard 1: Playground is in Poor Condition

Hazard 1 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in loss of life, body part, or permanent disability.

Hazard 2: Playground is in Fair Condition

Hazard 2 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Hazard 3: Playground is in Good Condition

Hazard 3 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in a minor or major non-disabling injury.

<u>Name of Park</u>	<u>Repair Type</u>
Menotomy Rocks _____	Renovate
Poets Corner _____	Renovate
Cutter _____	Renovate
Spy Pond _____	Renovate
Robbins Farm _____	Renovate
Stratton _____	Hazard 1
Buzzell _____	Hazard 1
Parmenter _____	Hazard 1
Peirce _____	Hazard 1
Bishop _____	Hazard 1
Locke _____	Hazard 2
Whittemore Robbins _____	Hazard 2
Parallel Park _____	Hazard 2
Crosby Park _____	Hazard 2
Waldo Park _____	Hazard 3
Hill's Hill _____	Hazard 3
McClennen _____	Hazard 3
Florence Dallin _____	Hazard 3
Hibbert _____	Hazard 3
Magnolia _____	Hazard 3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Park and Recreation Frequently Used Terminology
- Grass Mat Sample over EWF
- Grass Mat Sample over EWF to Transfer Module
- Accessible Play Areas
- MAAB
- CPSI Certification

PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

Anchor Park: A prominently located park, in a viable and populated area. This type of park draws people to it for many reasons, other than just the use of the playground equipment. The park itself can be the main reason the area thrives.

ASTM guidelines: ASTM stands for American Society for Testing and Materials. The organization develops over 12,500 voluntary consensus standards. They have over 140 technical standards-writing committees and represent many diverse industries.

CPSC Guidelines: The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety (CPSC Handbook) is the recognized standard for playground equipment safety.

Destination Playground: A piece of land, free of homes and buildings that is large and offers a wide variety of activities. People usually congregate in groups, but also offers space for the individual. The area is usually a large open space.

EPDM: E propylene Diene Monomer (M-class) rubber, is a type of synthetic rubber. The M refers to its classification in ASTM standard D-1418; the M class includes rubbers having a chain of the polyethylene type.

EWf: Stands for Engineered Wood Fiber, which is an economical playground surfacing. It has high impact absorbing qualities and still it is a firm, slip resistant surface that will meet accessibility guidelines.

GFRC: Stands for Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete, this material are used with playground equipment often in a themed or natural play playground.

HIC: The Head Injury Criterion (HIC) is a measure of the likelihood of head injury arising from an impact. This means that the HIC includes the effects of head acceleration and the duration of the acceleration during impact.

Impact Attenuation: Impact attenuation of playground surfacing is a measure of the surface's ability to absorb shock from a falling object such as a child. This attenuation is critical in the ASTM guidelines for prevention of head or bodily injuries.

PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

Neighborhood Park: Neighborhood parks, which generally range in size, usually take in several blocks of users in a surrounding neighborhood. These parks serve as a social and recreational focal point for a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks usually provide 'relief' and 'rejuvenation' from the environment for residents. In some instances, the neighborhood takes ownership of the playground often helping and contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the playground.

PIP: Stands for Poured in Place rubber. This is a common surfacing material used in playgrounds.

Play Value: The degree to which a playground and its equipment offers multiple layers of opportunities to develop social, physical, intellectual, and moral, development through play.

Plumb: Is a measure of the upright position of a post or main support column of a play structure i.e.; a net climber.

Pocket Park: Is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land. Used primarily by the adjacent abutters.

Professional Judgment/Opinion: The ability of an individual with current knowledge, skill and experience in the field of playground, playground equipment, design, use and operation to form an opinion or make a decision using this level of expertise as a guideline.

PVC Coating: Polyvinyl chloride is a soft rubbery coating on playground equipment made of metal such as decks.

PVC Paste: PVC coating that can be used to fill in areas where the original PVC coating has worn off or has exposed the underlying metal. As well as used in areas where PVC coating cannot reach such as arches and other vulnerable areas.

Residential Play Toys: Any piece of plastic or metal play toy brought from home to add play to a playground. All 'play toys' should be removed.

Retrofit: to modify equipment that is already in service.

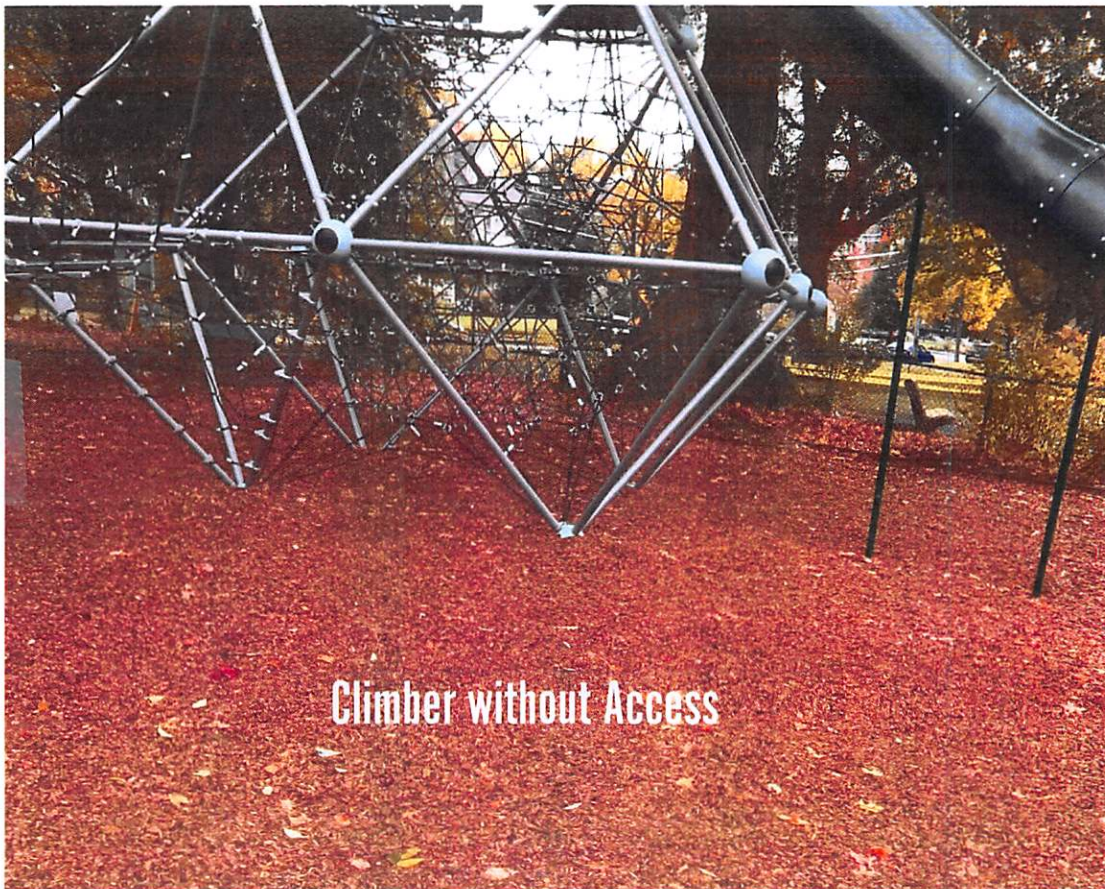
PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

SBR: Stands for Styrene Butadiene Rubber, is the basemat for poured in place rubber.

Spalling: Formal definition: break (ore, rock, stone, or concrete) into smaller pieces; to break off in fragments. "Cracks below the surface cause slabs of material to spall off". Hard material, which is starting to, or is currently shedding rust, usually in layers. I.e.: a deck that is PVC coated is losing its PVC from normal wear and tear. The steel shows, starts to rust, and then spalls. Rust flakes and settles on top of itself.

Use Zone: Use zones are typically set with playground equipment such as swings or slides mainly because of safety reasons. These zones help spacing between play structures or components to allow users ample amount of room so injuries are avoided.

3rd Party Playground Inspector: The inspection provided to clients remains free from bias or conflict of interest (i.e.: the 3rd party inspector is not a manufacturer's sales representative, installer of equipment or surfacing, etc.).

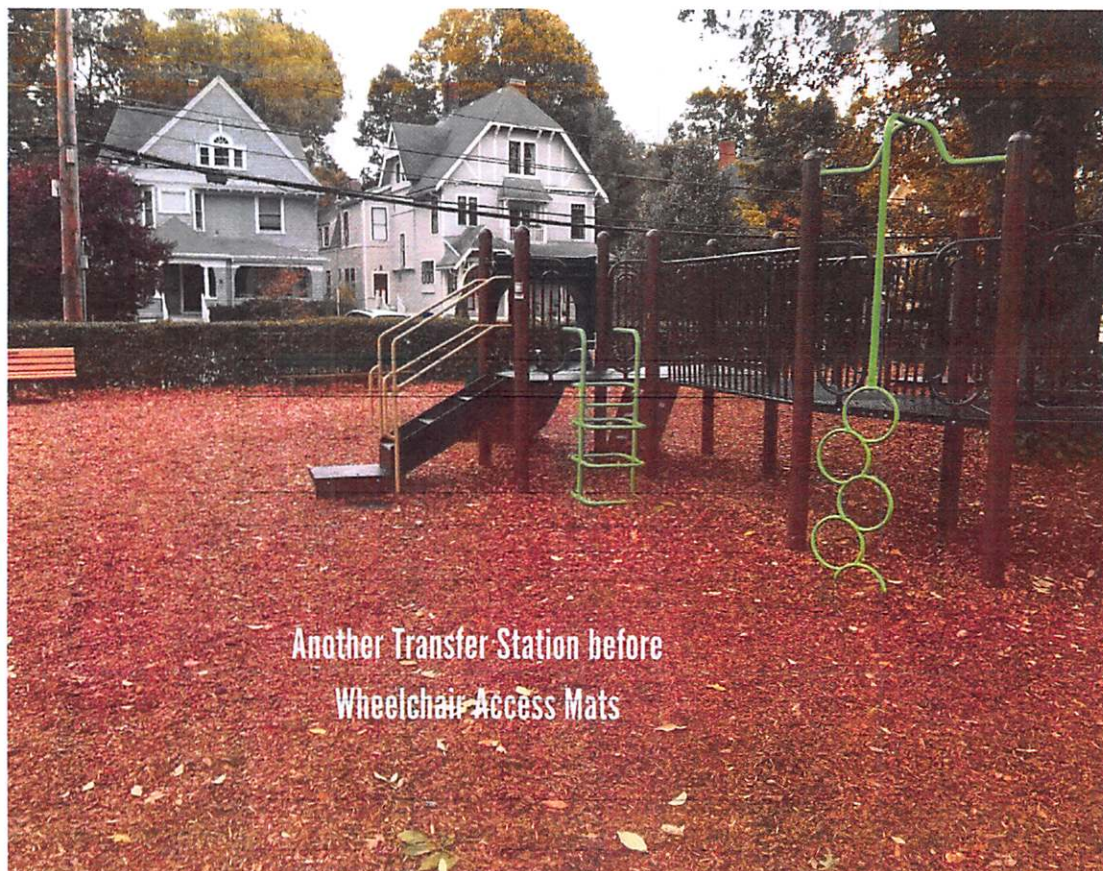


Climber without Access

GRASS MAT SAMPLE OVER EWF



Short time later, Climber with
Full Accessibility



Another Transfer Station before
Wheelchair Access Mats

GRASS MAT SAMPLE OVER EWF TO TRANSFER MODULE



MASSACHUSETTS ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD (MAAB)

* CMR 521

* STILL EVOLVING

*PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD IN 2018

*UNDERSTAFFED TO ENFORCE.

* NO "GRAND-FATHERING" IN.
ENORMOUS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR
ALL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

* IF COMPLAINT IS MADE WITH
MAAB, MUNICIPAL ENTITY WILL BE PLACED
ON NOTICE TO RECTIFY OTHERWISE FINED.

* NOTE ENTIRE SECTION IS RED LINED
IDENTIFYING THAT ENTIRE CMR 521 FOR
PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE CHANGING.

~~19.7~~59.00: PLAYGROUNDS-PLAY AREAS

~~An accessible route, complying with 521-CMR-208.00: ACCESSIBLE ROUTE shall be provided to reach playground equipment and around the playground.~~

59.1 GENERAL

Play areas for children ages 2 and over shall comply with the following requirements.

Exceptions:

- 1. Play areas located in family child care facilities where the proprietor actually resides.*
- 2. In existing play areas, where play components are relocated for the purposes of creating safe use zones and the ground surface is not altered or extended for more than one (1) use zone.*

3. *Amusement attractions*; however they shall comply with the requirements of **521 CMR 48.00: AMUSEMENT RIDES**.

59.2 NUMBER AND TYPES

Ground Level Play Components or Elevated Play Components: Where provided, at least one (1) of each type shall be on an *accessible route* and shall comply with **521 CMR 59.3, Location**.

- 59.2.1 Where *elevated play components* are provided, *ground level play components* shall be provided in accordance with **Table 59.2**. Where two (2) or more required *ground level play components* or *elevated play components* are provided, per **Table 59.2**, they shall be dispersed throughout the *play area* and integrated with other *play components*.

Exception:

If at least 50 percent of the *elevated play components* are connected by a *ramp* and at least three (3) of the *elevated play components* connected by the *ramp* are different types of *play components*, the *play area* shall not be required to comply with **521 CMR 59.2.1**.

Table 59.2 Number and Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Routes		
Number of Elevated Play Components Provided	Minimum Number of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on an Accessible Route	Minimum Number of Different Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on an Accessible Route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	7	4
23 to 25	8	4
26 and over	8, plus 1 for each additional 3, or fraction thereof, over 25	5

59.3 LOCATION

Where separate *play areas* are provided within a *site* for specific age groups (e.g., preschool (ages 2 to 5) and school age (ages 5 to 12)), each *play area* shall independently comply with the requirements of **521 CMR 59.00: PLAY AREAS**. Where *play areas* are provided for the same age group on a *site* but are geographically separated (e.g., one is located next to a picnic area and another is located next to a softball field), they are considered separate *play areas* and each *play area* must comply with this section.

59.4 ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

An *accessible route* shall be provided to reach playground equipment and around the *perimeter* of the playground for the following *play components*:

- a. *Ground Level Play Components and Elevated Play Components*: At least one (1) *accessible route* shall be provided within the *play area*. The *accessible route* shall connect *ground level play components* and *elevated play components* required to comply with **521 CMR 59.2, Number and Types**, including entry and exit points of the *play components*.
Exceptions:
 - 1. Transfer systems complying with **521 CMR 59.5, Transfer Systems**, shall be permitted to connect *elevated play components*, except where 20 or more *elevated play components* are provided no more than 25 percent of the *elevated play components* shall be permitted to be connected by transfer systems.
 - 2. Where transfer systems are provided, an *elevated play component* shall be permitted to connect another *elevated play component* as part of an *accessible route*.
- b. *Soft Contained Play Structures*: Where three (3) or fewer entry points are provided for *soft contained play structures*, at least one (1) entry point shall be on an *accessible route*. Where four (4) or more entry points are provided for *soft contained play structures*, at least two (2) entry points shall be on an *accessible route*.
Exception:
 Transfer systems complying with **521 CMR 59.5, Transfer Systems** shall be permitted to be used as part of an *accessible route*.
- c. *Water Play Components*: Where the surface of the *accessible route, clear floor or ground spaces*, or turning spaces serving *water play components* is submerged, it shall comply with **521 CMR 54.8, Sloped Entries**. Transfer systems complying with **521 CMR 59.5, Transfer Systems**, shall be permitted to connect *elevated play components* in water.

59.4.1 The ground surface of *use zones, accessible routes* and turning spaces within *play areas* shall be firm, stable and slip resistant, permanent, and constructed of materials such as rubber resilient surfacing, urethane rubber composites or similar; and comply with commonly accepted impact attenuation criteria for safety surfacing materials within the *use zones* of *play area* equipment. Loose fill surfaces and aggregate surfaces including wood fiber, bark mulch, wood chips, shredded rubber, shredded foam, etc. are not acceptable for *accessible routes* within the playground. Molded rubber mats, if utilized, require adhesion to a permanent surface beneath.

59.4.2 The *clear width* of *accessible routes* to *play components* shall comply with the following:

- a. At ground level, the *clear width* of *accessible routes* shall be 60 inches (1524 mm) minimum.

Exceptions:

- 1. In *play areas* less than 1000 square feet (93 m²), the *clear width* of *accessible routes* shall be permitted to be 44 inches (1118 mm) minimum, if at least one (1) turning space complying with **521 CMR 6.2, Wheelchair Turning Space** is provided where the restricted *accessible route* exceeds 30 feet (9144 mm) in length.
- 2. The *clear width* of *accessible routes* shall be permitted to be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum for a distance of 60 inches (1524 mm) maximum provided that multiple reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 60 inches (1524 mm) wide minimum and 60 inches (1524 mm) long minimum.

59.4.3 The *clear width* of *accessible routes* connecting *elevated play components* shall be 36 inches (914 mm) minimum.

Exceptions:

1. The *clear* width of *accessible routes* connecting *elevated play components* shall be permitted to be reduced to 32 inches (813 mm) minimum for a distance of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum provided that reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 48 inches (1219 mm) long minimum and 36 inches (914 mm) wide minimum.
2. The *clear* width of transfer systems connecting *elevated play components* shall be permitted to be 24 inches (610 mm) minimum.

59.4.4 Where *play components* require transfer to entry points or seats, the entry points or seats shall be 11 inches (280 mm) minimum and 24 inches (610 mm) maximum from the *clear floor or ground space*. Where *play components* require transfer to entry points or seats, at least one (1) means of support for transferring shall be provided per **521 CMR 59.6.3**.

Exception:

Entry points of slides shall not be required to comply with the requirements of **521 CMR 59.5.2, Entry Points and Seats**.

59.4.5 At least one (1) turning space complying with **521 CMR 6.2, Wheelchair Turning Space**, shall be provided on the same level as *play components*. Where swings are provided, the turning space shall be located immediately adjacent to the swing.

59.4.6 *Clear floor or ground space* complying with **521 CMR 6.1, Clear Floor or Ground Space for Wheelchairs** shall be provided at *play components*. *Clear floor or ground spaces*, turning spaces, and *accessible routes* are permitted to overlap within *play areas*.

59.4.7 Within *play areas*, *ramps* connecting *ground level play components* and *ramps* connecting *elevated play components* shall comply with the following:

- a. *Ramp* runs connecting *ground level play components* shall have a *running slope* not steeper than 1:16.
- b. The rise for any *ramp* run connecting *elevated play components* shall be 12 inches (305 mm) maximum.

59.4.8 Where required on *ramps* serving *play components*, the handrails shall comply with the following:

Exceptions:

1. Handrails shall not be required on *ramps* located within *ground level use zones*.
2. Handrail extensions shall not be required.
 - a. Handrail gripping surfaces with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of 0.95 inch (24 mm) minimum and 1.55 inches (39 mm) maximum. Where the shape of the gripping surface is non-circular, the handrail shall provide an equivalent gripping surface.
 - b. The top of handrail gripping surfaces shall be 20 inches (508 mm) minimum and 28 inches (711 mm) maximum above the *ramp* surface.

59.5 TRANSFER SYSTEMS

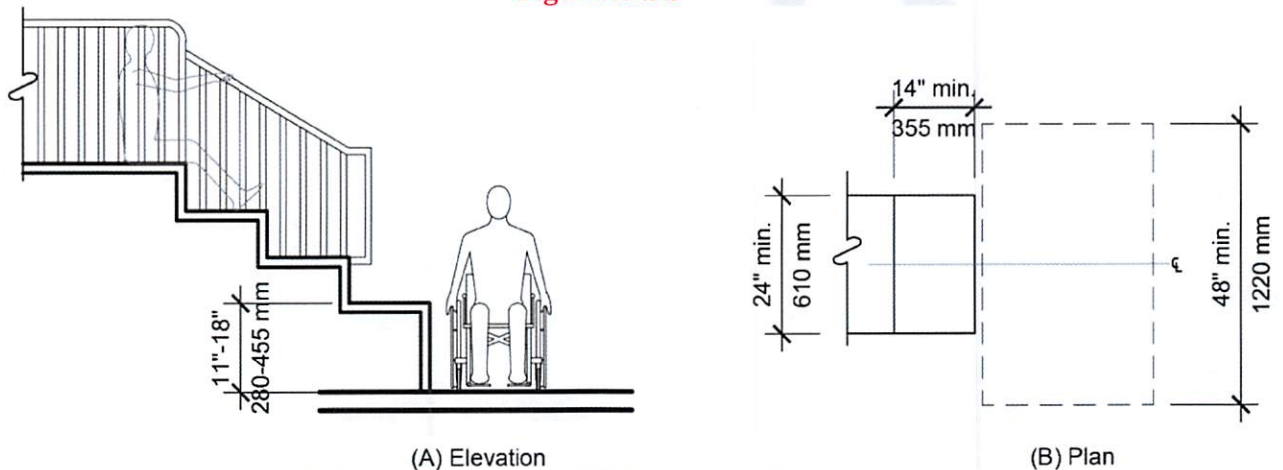
Where transfer systems are provided, consideration should be given to the distance between the transfer system and the *elevated play components*. Moving between a transfer platform and a series of transfer steps requires extensive exertion for some children. Designers should minimize the distance between the points where a child transfers from a wheelchair or mobility device and where the *elevated play components* are located. Where *elevated play components* are used to connect to another *elevated play*

component instead of an *accessible route*, careful consideration should be used in the selection of the *play components* used for this purpose.

59.5.1 Transfer platforms shall be provided where transfer is intended from wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Transfer platforms shall comply with the following (See **Figure 59.5a**):

- a. Transfer platforms shall have *level* surfaces 14 inches (356 mm) deep minimum and 24 inches (610 mm) wide minimum.
- b. The height of transfer platforms shall be 11 inches (280 mm) minimum and 18 inches (457 mm) maximum measured to the top of the surface from the ground or floor surface.

Figure 59.5a



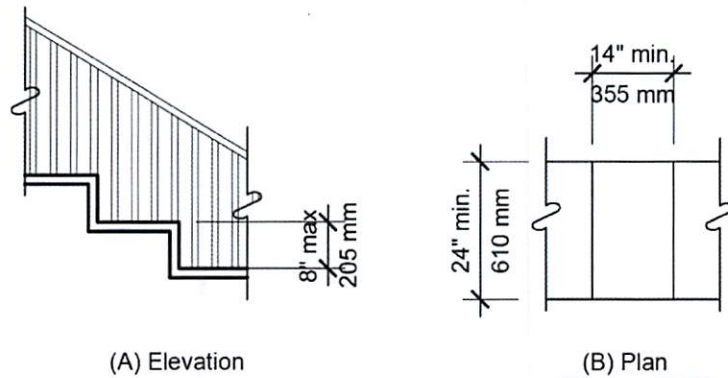
59.5.2 A transfer space complying with **521 CMR 6.1, Clear Floor or Ground Space for Wheelchairs**, shall be provided adjacent to the transfer platform. The 48 inch (1219 mm) long minimum dimension of the transfer space shall be centered on and parallel to the 24 inch (610 mm) long minimum side of the transfer platform. The side of the transfer platform serving the transfer space shall be unobstructed.

59.5.3 At least one (1) means of support for transferring shall be provided. Transfer supports are required on transfer platforms and transfer steps to assist children when transferring. Some examples of supports include a rope loop, a loop type handle, a slot in the edge of a flat horizontal or vertical member, poles or bars, or D rings on the corner posts.

59.5.4 Transfer steps shall be provided where movement is intended from transfer platforms to levels with *elevated play components* required to be on *accessible routes*. Transfer steps shall comply with the following (See **Figure 59.5b**):

- a. Transfer steps shall have *level* surfaces 14 inches (356 mm) deep minimum and 24 inches (610 mm) wide minimum.
- b. Each transfer step shall be 8 inches (203 mm) high maximum.

Figure 59.5a



(A) Elevation

(B) Plan

59.6 PLAY TABLES

Where play tables are provided, knee clearance 24 inches (610 mm) high minimum, 17 inches deep (432 mm) minimum, and 30 inches (762 mm) wide minimum shall be provided. The tops of rims, curbs, or other obstructions shall be 31 inches (787 mm) high maximum.

Exception:

Play tables designed and constructed primarily for children five (5) years and younger shall not be required to provide knee clearance where the *clear floor or ground space* required by **521 CMR 59.5.4, Clear Floor or Ground Space** is arranged for a parallel approach.

National Recreation and Park Association

Let it be known that

NANCY WHITE

has met the requirements of the standards set forth by the
National Certification Board
and is hereby granted certification as a

Certified Playground Safety Inspector



**Certified
Playground
Safety Inspector**

CHAIRPERSON

NRPA PRESIDENT AND CEO

April 06, 2017

DATE CERTIFIED

38108-0520

CERTIFICATION NUMBER

May 01, 2020

EXPIRATION DATE



NRPA National Recreation
and Park Association

National Recreation and Park Association

This is to attest that

Nancy White

is a

**Certified Playground
Safety Inspector**



**Certified
Playground
Safety Inspector**

Certification Number: **38108-0520**
Expiration Date: **5/1/2020**